## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian SSR) REPORT		
SUBJECT	1. Changes in Soviet Policy in the DATE DISTR.  Latvian SSR	<b>27 Apri</b> l 1955	25 <b>X</b> 1
	2. Security NO. OF PAGES	2	25 <b>X</b> 1
DATE OF INFO.	Service Personnel in the Latvian SSR REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED	REFERENCES		
DATE ACQUIRED	This is UNEVALUATED Information		25X <sup>-</sup>
	SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TEN	TATIVE.	

- 1. The following changes in Soviet policy in the Latvian SSR have been noticeable since Stalin's death:
  - a. There has been an effort to destroy the cult of personality, both among the ruling class and among the workers. All candidates for prominent posts must now prove themselves to be efficient and obedient workers. The latter trend has been particularly in evidence since the summer of 1954.
  - b. The campaign against "bourgeois nationalism" has not slackened, but it has become more sophisticated. A greater number of Latvians have been appointed to high posts, but, since all of them are die-hard Communists, no greater Latvian freedom within the Russian grip has resulted. The bulk of all ministerial posts are still filled by Russians.
  - c. The Kremlin is perceptibly trying to please the Latvian nation. Evidence of this can be seen in the following measures effected by the Soviet leaders in Moscow: the reduction of taxes on agriculture, reductions in the State Loan, and a mitigation of the regime under which political prisoners live.
- 2. Following are details on a number of security ministers in the Latvian SSR during recent years:
  - a. Arnolds Eglitis, a Latvian who was Minister of Internal Affairs, was dismissed in January 1951 because he had failed in his task of crushing "bourgeois nationalism". He was not punished, and is still living in Riga on his pension.
  - b. A. A. Noviks, Minister of State Security, was dismissed in March 1953 for the same reason as Eglitis. Noviks was not punished; he was merely demoted. He is now Deputy for Cadre Affairs in the

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in the Ministry of Agriculture in Rign.	
Kovelchuk, a non-Latvign, was Minister of Internal Affairs from March until June 1953. In Letvic, it is commonly believed that Kovelchuk was dismissed because he made no progress in destroying the national underground movement and because he had been associated with Lavrentiy P. Beriya.	
I. D. Zujans, a Latvian who succeeded Kovelchuk as Minister of Internal Affairs in June 1953 He was formerly employed in the MGB in Riga, and was chief of the security troops at Abrene in 1946.	
Veveris, a Russo-Latvian, was appointed chairman of the newly-formed KGB in the spring of 1954.5	
COMMENTS.	25 <b>X</b> 1
1. Although the State Loan was reduced shortly after Stalin's death, it was restored to its former level in 1955. However, them temporary reductions, as well as the other ameliorative measures were not confined to the Latvian SSR; they were effected throughout the Soviet Union.	25 <b>X</b> 1
2. According to information from the Soviet press. Eglitis's first name and patronymic are Avgust Petrovich.	
3. Nikolay Kuzmich/Kovalchuk had previously held several important State Security posts elsewhere than in the Latvian SSR.	
4. It is unlikely that any organized underground movement existed in the Latvian SSR as of 1953.	
5. According to information from the Soviet press, Veveris's first name and patronymic are Jan Janovich.	
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